

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 9, 2014

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 93**

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**Introduced by Senator Corbett**

March 3, 2014

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 93, as amended, Corbett. California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation ~~Month~~ *Month*.

This measure would designate the month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would also recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state. By adoption of this resolution, the Legislature seeks to increase awareness and understanding ~~about~~ *of* the Hindu American community.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and the nation have been influenced by
- 2 the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity
- 3 of its residents; and
- 4 WHEREAS, There is an estimated one billion Hindus
- 5 worldwide, and more than 2 million Hindu Americans live across
- 6 the nation; and
- 7 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Hindu American
- 8 population in the United States; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in California represent diverse
- 10 ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani,

1 Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese,  
2 Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

3 WHEREAS, California and our nation have greatly benefited  
4 from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy,  
5 Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation,  
6 literature, and community service; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States was officially introduced to  
8 Hinduism by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World's  
9 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and in 1900 he founded the  
10 Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California; and

11 WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was  
12 built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the  
13 temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the "First Hindu  
14 Temple in the Whole Western World"; and

15 WHEREAS, There are now over 120 Hindu temples, religious  
16 centers, and cultural centers throughout California, and the greater  
17 bay area is home to over 40 of those temples and centers; and

18 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched  
19 California's higher education university systems by teaching  
20 numerous students, especially in the academic fields of  
21 astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science,  
22 psychology, and neurosciences; and

23 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit  
24 of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having  
25 been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several  
26 of its early startups; and

27 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have also contributed to many  
28 of California's economic sectors and particularly excelled in the  
29 areas of business, information technology, medicine, and science;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, California Hindu temples, organizations, and  
32 individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless  
33 service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public  
34 service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

35 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in cities throughout California  
36 celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which  
37 celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over  
38 ignorance; and

1 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance,  
2 pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs  
3 and respect the diversity of all faiths; ~~now~~ now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
6 month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness  
7 and Appreciation Month; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges  
9 the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu  
10 heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to  
11 increase awareness and understanding ~~about~~ of the Hindu American  
12 community; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
14 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.